

Meeting Notes

Eastern HS Programs Advisory Team
June 30, 2009
6-7:30pm
Logan Annex
Facilitator: Charity Fesler and Justin Cohen

Overview:

The meeting began with a discussion of courses currently offered at Eastern guided by questions such as “what courses do you see as ‘must haves’?” “what courses would you like to add?” “what courses would you phase out?” Health Sciences as a potential theme for one of the 10th-12th grade small learning communities (SLCs) has been a topic of interest from the beginning. Presenters shared research about career projections in the Health Sciences and how the SLC could include but expand on the current CTE academy. General reaction from the team was positive, but they would like a more concrete example of what courses and extracurricular opportunities could construct a Health Science SLC.

Notes:

Issue	Comments
Current Eastern courses	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Noted lack of AP options. Interest in adding AP Calculus, AP History, AP Biology▪ 4 years of languages are required at some universities yet Spanish III is the highest level offered currently.▪ Option to include other languages? French, Latin, Arabic, Chinese, Japanese mentioned. Could there be distance-learning options for some?▪ Possible to offer classes in cultural diversity or comparative religions? At the very least cultural diversity/competence should be integrated into other courses.▪ Drama should be included in a full arts program.▪ Suggestion to offer mandatory Microsoft/typing class (student could get out of requirement via test).▪ Suggestion to update “home economics” to include Finance/ economic like skills
For follow up: What are the current required HS courses in DCPS?	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Option for electives in Psychology or behavioral science within Health Science community
<p>Health Sciences: an option for one of the three 10th - 12th grade small learning communities (SLC).</p> <p>Presentation:</p> <p>Current:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ CTE Academy with Emergency Medical Services pathway and addition of Pharmacy Technology pathway in 2009. ○ 3-4 Carnegie units in HAS plus internship opportunities and preparation to obtain certifications. <p>What can we build?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ An SLC with 250-300 capacity which offers students some Health Science context in core classes, Health Science based electives, internship opportunities, AP science courses ○ Clear relationship to college and careers <p>Why is this a good theme for DC?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Local community partnership opportunities with 14 local hospitals, 3 university hospitals, many corporations (including current work with CVS), National Institutes of Health ○ Job opportunities/ projections: Nationally, 30-40% of U.S. job creation in the next 25 years will be in this field. ○ Since 2001 the healthcare industry has added 1.7 million jobs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Q: Is a career-themed SLC asking students to specialize too early in HS? A: The theme provides a context and focus for some of the core classes and an opportunity to tangibly explore a particular field, but does not limit a graduate's options for majors in college or pursuing other careers. It is a chance to explore one option, not a career decision. ▪ Noted that the CTE Academy as it now exists already has the dual purpose of preparing students for college and career training. Follow-up: This SLC would expand on the current CTE certifications to include integration of health science topics into core classes, AP sciences, etc. so that the students could choose to enroll in CTE certification classes and also design a college-prep course sequence. There will most likely be a required exploratory course on Health Sciences, but students will be able to build a schedule based on their interests. ▪ General agreement that Health Sciences is a timely, relevant, appropriate theme for one SLC. ▪ Concern expressed that there should be one SLC that does not have a career theme, more of a "general" theme for students who don't have a specific interest.
<p>Handout: Spectrum of careers in the Health Sciences with median salaries and education requirements.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪